

REMARKS

The Office Action rejects claims 1-6 based on a provisional double patenting rejection under 35 U.S.C. 101. Office Action, at 2. Claims 1-6, however, were canceled by the Applicants in a First Preliminary Amendment filed together with the filing of this Application on April 2, 2004. Claims 7-9 were presented in the First Preliminary Amendment and remain pending. A copy of these claims is reproduced on the following pages for the Examiner's convenience. No amendments have been made to claims 7-9 nor are any new claims presented here.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection. Favorable action on the Application, including claims 7-9, is also solicited.

Dated: February 1, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By Megan S. Woodworth

Mark J. Thronson

Registration No.: 33,082

Megan S. Woodworth

Registration No.: 53,655

DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO MORIN &

OSHINSKY LLP

2101 L Street NW

Washington, DC 20037-1526

(202) 785-9700

Attorney for Applicants